

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 MC-02 EUR-25 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 STR-08 EB-11 DRC-01 /177 W

----- 023592

R 041017Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9007

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BLOM, ETRD, ETRA, SF

SUBJ: INQUIRIES ABOUT ARMS EMBARGO

1. IN LAST FEW DAYS, EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY REPS OF
US PRODUCTS CONCERNING POSSIBLE SALES OF EQUIPMENT TO SA
MILITARY.

A. ON NOVEMBER 30, REPS OF UNITED AIRCRAFT INTERNATIONAL
(WESLEY KUHRT, DIVISION PRESIDENT, AND JOHN CAMPBELL, MARKETING
DIRECTOR - AFRICA) INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SELLING
SIKORSKY CH-53 HELICOPTERS TO SA NAVY. THEY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH
WITH NAVY WHO ASSURED THEM THAT HELICOPTERS WOULD BE FOR
COAST GUARD TYPE OPERATIONS (SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS
EMPHASIZED).

B. ON DECEMBER 3, REPS OF BRITISH AIRCRAFT CO. (HEADED BY
ROBERT THOMSON, CHIEF SALES ENGINEER) INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITY
OF SELLING REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLE (FIREE-B) MANUFACTURED BY
TELEDYNE - RYAN OF SAN DIEGO. BAC HAS BEEN IN CONTINUING CONTACT
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WITH SA MILITARY, BELIEVES SA PREFERENCE FOR TELEDYNE PRODUCT,

BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT TO LEAD SA MILITARY DOWN GARDEN
PATH IF US EXPORT APPROVAL NOT RPT NOT FORTHCOMING. IN RECENT
CONVERSATION WITH TELEDYNE REP, THOMSON SAYS HE WAS TOLD THAT
SAG APPLICATION MIGHT OVERCOME US EMBARGO.

2. BOTH GROUPS STRESSED NON-OFFENSIVE NATURE OF EQUIPMENT AND
THAT SA WOULD BUY EQUIPMENT, IF NOT FROM US THEN FROM OTHER
POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO BOTH QUERIES, ECON COUNSELOR STATED THAT
PROPOSED SALES PRECLUDED BY TERMS OF EMBARGO AND THAT WE
UNAWARE OF ANY POSSIBLE WEAKENING OF EMBARGO ITSELF. HE
ADVISED BOTH FIRMS TO CONFIRM THESE VIEWS THROUGH DISCUSSION
BY THEIR US PRINCIPALS WITH WASHINGTON AGENCIES, AND WE ASSUME
THEY WILL DO SO.
HURD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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